More Lambs, Less Lions

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Given all of atmospheric rivers, and their subsequent winds, that we had in February, March entering a bit more like a lamb would be happily received. While the rain is always welcomed, the rather uncharacteristic winds, and the neighboring branches that they bring down, aren't. Above are a few of the evergreen branches that came down last month during some strong winds that blew through. And speaking of atmospheric rivers, that leads us to the first medal in this upload—one that alludes to the great flood and Noah's Ark...

This late 18th/early 19th century white metal medal was a reissue of an earlier type dating to 1721 and celebrating the Treaty of Nystadt, which ended the Great Northern War between Russia and Sweden. Here, the rather lengthy conflict, which lasted just over 20 years, is compared to the biblical flood, complete with Noah's Ark, with the appearance of a rainbow and a dove indicative that the deluge (*here, the regional conflict*) was finally coming to an end. At a distance, once can see two of the leading cities of the combatants, St. Petersburg and Stockholm.

Moving to a piece with a different sailing vessel, *and then some*, we have this stunningly colorful and vibrantly toned silver medal from the very accomplished Karl Goetz...

This resounding example no doubt stands as one of the most enticing and alluring of the type, as it pairs impeccable surface quality and radiant prooflike brilliance with extravagant color evident upon each side—with the zeppelin and ship side really awash with a vibrant palette. Designed by Goetz and touching upon not just the zeppelin airship but also the *Santa Maria* and, by extension, a connection to Christopher Columbus, this type, especially in such an elevated state of preservation (**PCGS SP-65**), hits across numerous collecting interests.

Speaking of Columbian-related exonumia, here is an incredibly flashy and lustrous prooflike “Danish” white metal medal offering an abundance of eye appeal that we simply have not encountered in the past...

While the still image was shot with more diffused lighting, the in-hand video reveals the level of radiant and mirrored brilliance evident in the fields, with a great cameo contrast easily visible upon each side. What's more, it even includes one half of the original cardboard roundelle which would have accompanied it—an exceptionally rare and unheard-of feat in its own right.

Switching back to the concept of a zeppelin-style airship from the silver Goetz medal above, here is a resoundingly attractive silver medal commemorating the Graf von Zeppelin along with his eponymous airship—all while it was in the middle of a World War I bombing campaign of London. One can even rather easily spot London Bridge upon the reverse of this toned **PCGS SP-63**...

For a few things that are a bit different, here's a bronze plaque from the opening years of the 20th century featuring one famous artist as the designer (Victor David Brenner, famous for the Lincoln cent) and one famous artist as the subject (James McNeill Whistler, famous for his mother...among other works of art)...

Capturing the defiant nature of the recently-deceased American painter and etcher, this plaque also features a strutting peacock as well as two of Whistler's "butterfly"-style signatures.

Keeping with the theme of plaques and things that are extremely unusual (*and I mean extremely*), there's this carved bone plaque displaying the House of Stuart, *along with Oliver Cromwell*, who likely wouldn't be invited to any family reunions for this clan...

Quite well rendered with tremendous detail within each portrait, this piece features images done in bas-relief, with an indication of each person's name appearing above or below his or her countenance.

Also, you may notice that this newsletter contains slightly more (14) items than usual (12). We will be back again later in the month on the **Ides of March** with our usual spring installment of spooky exonumia, with 10 (*rather than 12*) tokens and medals that could spook even Caesar's ghost. For all of this upload's new items, please click **here** or on the banner art below.

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